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“Institutional framework for sustainable development”

Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair

Our effort to achieve sustainable development needs to be supported by appropriate institutional architecture at national, regional and international levels, which should be subject to constant review with a view to improving effectiveness and addressing new challenges. Japan welcomes the opportunity to discuss this important subject as we prepare for Rio+20 next year.

Mr. Co-Chair,

Japan is of the view that, in order to improve the international governance on sustainable development, better utilization of existing institutions is essential and coordination among them should be further strengthened. Japan recognizes the initiatives taken to this end in the United Nations systems, including UN “Delivering as One”. Further efforts in this direction should continue to be pursued.

Japan believes that the CSD should continue to play the central role as a high-level body responsible for sustainable development, keeping its unique function to mainstream sustainable development into each thematic issue. Japan welcomes proposals to strengthen the CSD, in particular on how to improve implementation of CSD decisions, and continues to engage in constructive discussions for this purpose.

Mr. Co-chair,

Japan recognizes the importance of the enhancement of international environmental governance in order to effectively address global environmental issues.

Japan would like to reiterate the importance of system-wide coherence within the United Nations system in the environmental field. What is necessary in this regard is to make the most of the limited resources available within the United Nations system, through enhanced coordination and rationalization of the various institutions, including the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). In this context, the development of a system-wide strategy for the environment, identified in the “Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome” could contribute to enhancing system-wide coherence.

With regards to the options for broader institutional reforms, Japan agrees, in principle, to the necessity of strengthening UNEP. Yet, we should further examine each option of organizational reform from the perspective of cost-effectiveness and the possible budgetary implications.

In concluding, Mr. Co-chair, Japan welcomes discussion on any ambitious proposal as a long-term vision, and supports consideration of the concrete deliverables for the short and medium term so that Rio+20 can produce meaningful outcomes which improve the international governance on sustainable development.

Thank you, Mr. Co-chair.